GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7257
ANSWERED ON:13.05.2005
PRODUCTION OF JUTE
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Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of jute in the country has fallen considerably during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(c) the main reasons for the same; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost production of jute and to revive the jute mills/industries in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF TEXTILES(SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA)

(a) & (b): According to the Directorate of Jute Development, Ministry of Agriculture, the estimated area, and production for the last three years are as follows:-

Year	Area ('000 ha)			Production in lakh bales		
	Jute	Mesta	Total	Jute	Mesta	Total
2002-03	864.4	176.3	1040.7	102.99	10.36	113.36
2003-04	814.9	161.5	976.4	102.35	9.02	111.37
2004-05	694.9	150.6	845.5	86.81	8.75	95.56

(c): The marginal decline in production of jute and mesta during 2004-05 is due to lower coverage under the crops on account of adverse weather conditions and prevailing market prices during the sowing season.

(d): The following steps have been taken by the Government to boost production of jute and to revive the jute mills/industries in the country:-

Steps to boost production of jute

(i) Introduction of better retting facilities.

(ii) Development of R&D activities for higher yield.

(iii) Encouragement to farmers by offering better raw jute prices every year.

(iv) Fixation of Minimum Support Price for raw jute and mesta to provide a safety net to jute farmers to prevent them from distress sale of their produce.

(v) Launching of the new National Jute Policy 2005.

(vi) Implementation of Schemes by the Ministry of Agriculture pertaining to R&D efforts and better agronomic practices to increase yield and quality of raw jute produced by the jute growers. Steps to revive jute mills/Industries

(i) Providing soft loan to the jute industry to purchase new machines through the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS).

(ii) Offering incentives scheme for modernization of jute industry through JMDC.

(iii) Extension of JMDC External Market Assistance (EMA) Scheme. E.M.A is allowed for 12 products and range of assistance varies from 5% to 10%.

(iv) Promotion of a diversified product portfolio through schemes, operated by the National Centre for Jute Diversification (NCJD) and Jute Manufacturers Development Council (JMDC) so as to ensure a better price to the farmers for their high quality fibre used for JDPS.

(v) Ensuring a reasonable market demand for the raw jute produced by the farmers by reserving foodgrains and sugar to be packed in jute packaging materials under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987.